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EASTERN

**F.O.
371**

1947

PALESTINE

FILE No. 227

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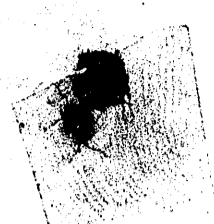
Reference

FO 371 / 61860

**CLOSED
UNTIL**

1978

61860



E

E 227
7 JAN

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E227/227/31

FROM

Chancery
Washington

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

168/443/46

30 Dec 1946

7 Jan 1947

American League for a free Palestine.
Encloses copy of letter which Ambassador has received from A. L. F. P. together with copy of letter which League sent to Italian Ambassador in Washington discussing the detention of Palestinian citizens in Italy. Blames HMG for using Italy as base for operations against Jews.

Last Paper.

(12099/14/31)

References.

(Print.)

61860

(How disposed of.)

8/60.

4. M. 1. 5

Jan 10

(Action completed.)

GEM/14/1

(Index.)

18/14/48

Next Paper.

E254

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Reference
FO 371 / 61860

E. 227
7 JAN

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

E. 3

168/443/46

December 30th 1946

Dear Department,

We enclose herein a letter which the Ambassador has received from the American League for a Free Palestine together with a copy of a letter which the League has sent to the Italian Ambassador in Washington.

As you know, the American League for a Free Palestine supports the even more extreme Hebrew Committee for National Liberation and they both support terrorism in Palestine. We know it to be your desire that we should have no dealings with organisations of this type and we are therefore sending no reply whatsoever to this communication.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

[Handwritten signature]

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London.

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Reference
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C O P Y

AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR A FREE PALESTINE
2315 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.,
Washington 8, D.C.

December 23rd, 1946

The Right Honorable the Lord Inverchapel, P.C., G.C.M.G.,
Ambassador of Great Britain,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Ambassador,

The American League for a Free Palestine and some of its congressional friends have lodged a protest with the Italian Government against the detention in Rome of several citizens of Palestine after a clearance of all implication of crime by the Italian police. A copy of the letter to the Italian Ambassador in Washington is enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that you communicate to your Government the contents of this appeal, and that you urge your Government to withdraw its demand upon the Italian Government for the continued detention of these innocent people. We cannot too greatly emphasize the significance of such actions on the part of your Government abroad in connection with Anglo-American friendship. Such violations of basic civil liberty place a strain upon the feeling of mutual trust and confidence which should prevail between two nations with the same great traditions of freedom.

It is our earnest hope that your Government will at once recognize the untenability of its position in this matter and take the necessary steps to rectify a great injustice.

Sincerely yours,

Signed) Fowler V. Harper
Vice Chairman

4

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Reference
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C O P Y

December 23rd, 1946

His Excellency,
The Italian Ambassador to the United States,
Washington, D.C.

Excellency:

The American League for a Free Palestine, which supports the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation in the campaign for a Palestine free of British rule, contends that the current British pressure on the Italian police to arrest Palestinian citizens residing in or passing through Italy is a flagrant abuse of the purpose for which Allied military forces are present there.

British authorities are in Italy today solely by virtue of an Allied war-time decision to conduct military operations in Italy against the enemy. Interference with local police functions cannot be considered otherwise than as a wholly unjustifiable encroachment upon Italian sovereignty and a complete distortion of the role prescribed for Allied occupation forces in Italy.

The facts in the case are as follows:

1. On November 4, 1946, Premier de Gasperi was informed in a letter from the Irgum Zvai Laumi, Palestine underground movement, that it had caused the October 31 bombing of the British Embassy in Rome in retaliation against the British Empire. The letter pointed out that Italy "has been transformed by the British into a base of their operations against the Hebrew people".

2. At the instigation of British occupation authorities in Rome, the Italian political police began arresting Palestinian citizens and displaced Hebrews who happened to be in Rome. These men were held under no specific charges. An attempt was made to implicate them in the bombing of the British Embassy and all possible connections between the detained men and the incident were investigated by the Italian police, but no connection was established. However, after these men had been cleared of any complicity in the bombing, they were not freed,

/despite

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despite the fact that the pretext for their original arrest no longer obtained. These men were continued in detention owing to British pressure, prompted by Britain's desire to further the present British regime in Palestine.

3. A Reuters dispatch from London on November 5 announced that Chaim Wimber, Pinkus Widman and Schaak were being detained by the Rome police as suspects in the Embassy bombing. On November 27, Professor Johan J. Smertenko, vice-president of the American League for a Free Palestine, told a press conference in Rome that the Italian police were holding Leo Sonnino, Israel Epstein, Daitel Debursio, Dov Gurwitz, Israel Wechter and Hayyim Lazar, all Hebrew nationals. On December 8, Professor Smertenko announced that five of eight Palestinians still held in prison had been released for total lack of evidence against them.

4. On December 18, Professor Smertenko cabled from Rome to his New York headquarters that instead of releasing the remaining prisoners, the Police were continuing arrests. The latest victim was Krivoshein, correspondent for the TEL AVIV daily newspaper Hamashkif. Despite the acknowledgment by the Commissioner of Political Police Bottino that four weeks' investigation had cleared Israel Epstein of any connection with the bombing, he was still imprisoned on the insistence of British officials.

5. A cable received by the American League in New York on December 20 declared that the Rome police had exonerated Epstein and recommended his release. This action had the approval of the American authorities in Rome also. British officials, however, requested a delay while arrangements could be made for Epstein's deportation to Palestine, which, in effect, means deportation to British concentration camps in Eritrea.

6. At last report (December 20) Krivoshein and several other innocent men were being kept in prison, faced with the same threat of deportation to East African concentration camps. It is well-known that in these unsanitary

/camps

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camps under the fierce heat of the tropical sun hundreds of Palestinians incarcerated by the British have had their health undermined and several have died or been killed there.

7. All of the above is part of a concentrated British effort to prevent activities in Italy assisting the repatriation of Hebrews to Palestine. Italian ports - like most European ports - have been and are points of assembly and departure for Hebrew displaced persons, and it is for Italian authorities to insure that Italian law and order is observed, which they are doing in a strict and efficient manner. British occupational authorities, however, in contradiction to the terms of their presence in Italy, have constantly used their power to prevent these activities, a typical case being that of the arrest of some 1200 Hebrews and their forced detention on the ship "Fedra" in the Harbor of La Spezia.

8. In view of all the above, it is respectfully submitted that the actions of the British authorities in Italy are in complete violation of the terms of the armistice as well as of the spirit and purpose of the United Nations. These actions constitute both an infringement on the basic rights of the Italian people and a denial of elementary rights and civil liberties which are the cornerstone of a democratic society.

We respectfully appeal to the Italian Government to secure the immediate release of the detained Palestinians and to resist further usurpation of authority by the British in Italy.

On behalf of the American League for a Free Palestine,

(Signed) G.M. Gillette
President

Arthur Capper
A.J. Sabath, M.C.
William S. Bennet
Hugh D. Scott

Fowler Harper
Vice Chairman

Andrew L. Somers, M.C.

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E 254/227/31

E 674

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Reference **FO** *371 / 61860*

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E 1502
19 FEB

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E1502/227/3

FROM

Chancery

No.

Washington

Dated

200/102/47

Received in Registry

13 Feb 1947

19 Feb 1947

American League for a Free Palestine
League held two-day conference
in New York. In final resolution it
called for dissolution of the Jewish Agency
accusing it of repeated attempts to promote
appeasement and collaboration with
the British. League also endorsed Palestine
Resistance movement and said that the
organ Zion, Jewish, merited support of
all Americans.

Last Paper.

1300

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/6.0.
Feb 27

(Action completed.)

J & M 6/3

(Index.)

[Handwritten initials]

Next Paper.

2227

(Minutes.)

Copy J.C.O.
N. American Dept.

213.207
12

It would be interesting to
know if the league expects to raise
\$7½ million, and so, where from?

[Handwritten signature]

213.67
13

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BRITISH EMBASSY.
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.
13th February 1947
19 FEB

BRITISH EMBASSY.

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

13th February 1947

Ref: 200/102/47

Dear Department,

The American League for a Free Palestine has just held a two-day conference in New York.

In its final resolution the League called for the dissolution of the Jewish Agency, accusing it of repeated attempts to promote appeasement and collaboration with the British. The Agency had, it said, been persistently trying to discredit Jewish fighters for liberation in Palestine by labelling them terrorists and gangsters. With the establishment of a provisional government, the Agency would no longer be needed.

The League also endorsed the Palestine Resistance Movement and said that the Irgun Zvai Leumi merited the support of all Americans. This support the League itself promised to give in every way compatible with the laws of the United States. Various speakers attacked "British proposals for partition in Palestine", which the delegates considered would merely create a ghetto in the area determined by the law to be a homeland for the Hebrew Nation. The conference called for an international investigation of British treatment of Jewish prisoners of war and of "war crimes committed by British Forces in Palestine".

One rather surprising incident, according to the press, was the defeat by Smertanko, who is a Vice-Chairman of the League and was recently deported from England, of a proposal to supply

/weapons

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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weapons for the terrorists and to institute an immediate boycott of British goods.

The League adopted a budget of 7½ million dollars for 1947. Of this amount one million dollars was for operating expenses, 1½ million dollars for the establishment of the Palestine Provisional Government, and 5 million dollars for repatriation and relief. Last year's budget, according to the press, amounted to only 742,000 dollars.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

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E 2227

11

PALESTINE

14 MAR

Registry Number

E2227/227/31

FROM

Consul General Philadelphia

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

38.

11 Mar 1947
14 - -

American League for a Free Palestine
Encloses copy Philadelphia letter #98 (5.P.10.2) of 1. Mar. 47. From Mr. W. Bromley, Washington. Discussing Ben Hedeck's play 'A Flag in Born' which was in Philadelphia & sponsored by American League for a Free Palestine. Gives further report on activities of League.

Last Paper.

1502

References.

3320/46/31

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Dft) Chaucer, Washington, ✓ March 31

(Action completed.)

GEM/8/4

(Index)

11/4/48

Next Paper.

E3484

(Minutes.)

An excellent report.

What is the "blackout" to which Mr. McCallum refers? It seems particularly unfortunate at this time.

N. American Dept.
A.D. h.t. 25/3

H. Bealey 15/3

I know of no 'blackout', which I take to mean a prohibition on consular officers to discuss or speak about Palestine. I suggest that we should ask Chaucer about it, and agree with H. Bealey that it is undesirable.

A.B. Lamb 20/3

A member of A.D. who was in NY in form-
tbl tells me that some time in late
Jan or early Feb a top secret directive
did impose a blackout, as described
and I think (thru. I can't see how it
that there was a sentence from
Washington to this effect before P. was
handed to A.D. A.A. Hamilton 25/3/48
Mr. Russell

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Mr. Dudley is equally in the
dark. Letter to Shantung
Washington.
Arthurs via night telegraph

~~H.B.~~
H.B. 29/3

12

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M^r Beeley
Harold. 13

You might
have a word
with Alan Dudley
of Info: Policy
Dept. about this
if you feel strongly.
You might at
least have told
us!

Edith, 27/3

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14
North American Department

Foreign Office,

LONDON. S.W.1

E 2227 1st March, 1947

14 MAR

FORWARDED WITH THE
COMPLIMENTS OF THE BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL
AT PHILADELPHIA

Enclosure - Copy Philadelphia letter

No. 38 (5.P.10.2) of 1st March,
1947.

BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL
PHILADELPHIA 7

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COPY.

BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL,

PHILADELPHIA,

No. 38.

March 1, 1947.

(S.P.10.2)

CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Bromley,

I send you herewith a copy of the souvenir programme of Ben Hecht's "A Flag is Born", which recently concluded a successful run in Philadelphia under the sponsorship of the American League for a Free Palestine. I also enclose an appeal for contributions to the funds of this organisation, and a "Message from Ben Hecht". These leaflets were distributed at each performance.

The American League for a Free Palestine makes no bones about the fact that its aims include support of Jewish terrorists in Palestine, and the "repatriation" of European Jews to that country "with or without British consent". Note the statement on page 4 of the programme that Hecht's Repatriation Supervisory Board publicly raises funds in the United States to move refugees to Palestine by the underground railroad, and the report of the work of this Committee on pp. 22 and 23. It is odd that, even at this stage, the League should be able to assure prospective supporters that by a ruling of the U.S. Treasury, contributions to this organisation are tax exempt. It is also interesting to observe that the list of Jews evacuated by the Repatriation Committee to points on the Mediterranean coast (p.23 of the programme) has been viséd in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Palestine has been much in the news here during the

T. E. Bromley, Esq.,

British Embassy,

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Reference

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the past month. The American League for a Free Palestine has had another half-page advertisement in the local press, accusing us of preparing "another programme of terror against the Jews in Palestine, in order to secure our hold on Colonial slavery". The Consulate was picketed again for an hour a few days ago, I have no doubt at the instigation of the American League. An Associated Press wirephoto of a naval boarding party using truncheons to quell disorder on one of the ships running illegal immigrants to Palestine was front-paged in the Philadelphia Inquirer, and -- possibly because the lady's usual place of residence is Lancaster, Pennsylvania, which gave the story some local interest -- Mrs. Helen Friedman's visit to the Embassy and subsequent flight to Jerusalem to see her brother, Dov Gruner, were fairly prominently reported in the Philadelphia press.

The Third Annual Conference of the (anti-Zionist) American Council for Judaism was held in Philadelphia on February 12th and 13th, and was attended by approximately 200 delegates from 22 States and the District of Columbia.

In his opening message, Lessing Rosenwald, the President, said that the objective of the Council remained what it always had been - to open the doors of the world, not just of one country, to the displaced Jews of Europe. He felt that the problem of Palestine was one for the United Nations and the concern of all nations, and censured both Arabs and Jews for their rejection of the proposals submitted by His Majesty's Government. The Zionist refusal was, he added, the final triumph of Zionism over humanitarianism. Mr. Earl Harrison, who is the Chairman of the Citizens' Committee on Displaced Persons and who will be remembered as the author of the Harrison Report, told the Conference that the present quota laws prevent this country from doing its fair share in solving the problems of Europe's displaced persons. His Committee was, he said, drafting legislation to admit up to 400,000 displaced persons to the United States over a four-year period. Their admittance would in no way aggravate economic, housing or employment problems and would, he believed, be a practical means of preserving peace in Europe and international goodwill. Harrison speaks with some authority on questions relating to immigration, since he was, as you may remember, at one time Commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Carleton Beals, the well-known American author, also addressed the Conference. He expressed the belief that

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that Zionists would project themselves into a self-imposed ghetto if they sought to dominate Palestine. He criticized Jewish nationalists who continued to play an American role while supporting outside territorial interests, and predicted that support of a Jewish State by American Jews would bring resentment in this country.

Beals went on to say that he thought it would be a calamity if the United States were to accept joint control of Palestine, as so much Jewish propaganda had demanded. "We could not do it", he said, "without lining up definitely in a bloc against the Soviet Union, and thus undermining what hope there is for the United Nations organization on more universal principles The United States cannot afford to forfeit the goodwill of the Arabs".

The Conference passed a resolution demanding that in the interests of world peace, the United States should take immediate steps to bring the Palestine problem before the United Nations.

Lessing Rosenwald was re-elected President of the Council. Other Philadelphians on the new Board are Rabbi W. H. Fineshriber, who was re-elected Vice-President; D. Hays Solis-Cohen, re-elected treasurer, and Morris Wolf, secretary.

The announcement that the London talks had failed to provide a solution and that the whole question would be submitted to the United Nations produced a sharply worded editorial in the Philadelphia Inquirer, which saw this decision as a "belated admission of the abject failure which Britain has made of its mandate for the Holy Land and of its shameful betrayal of hundreds of thousands of pitiful displaced persons who have prayed for refuge in a real homeland".

Mr. Bevin's statement in the House on the 25th February about the effect of the President's message on the discussions which were proceeding in London last October and the White House rejoinder were of course front page news. The Inquirer said editorially that the Foreign Secretary's statement was "another case of buck-passing", but other press comment seemed to point to a willingness to admit, albeit reluctantly, that the timing of Mr. Truman's message was not calculated to improve chances of success in London. However, as far as the general public is concerned, the flurry of interest occasioned by this exchange seems to have died down and any

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4. 18

fears that it might impair Anglo-American unity at Moscow were set at rest by the Foreign Secretary's assurance given to the House on the 27th February that he would not allow the cordial and friendly relations with the United States to be disturbed.

The local representatives of the American League for a Free Palestine have also had something to say about the decision to refer the Palestine question to the United Nations. Emanuel Beloff and Joseph Sharfsin, the Co-Chairmen of the Pennsylvania Executive Board of the League, have written me that they are not impressed by Mr. Bevin's announcement; that they question the sincerity of it, and regard it as "merely another ruse to hoodwink all those interested in a just and democratic solution to the Palestine problem." They have asked me to convey to the appropriate quarter their "severe condemnation of the policy of terror practised against the Hebrew people of Palestine", and go on to threaten that the American League will oppose H.M.G.'s policy there with every means at its disposal unless British troops are withdrawn immediately and the ports of Palestine re-opened forthwith to "Hebrew repatriation". I have not acknowledged this letter.

Sharfsin has also issued a statement to the press, in which he alleges that in December, 1945, ex-Senator Gillette and five other Americans (of whom Sharfsin himself was one) had a lengthy interview with Mr. Bevin at the Foreign Office. When the meeting ended, Sharfsin's statement continues, the Foreign Secretary gave his word of honour that he would agree to and immediately provide authority for moving 100,000 Jews in the internment camps to Palestine if the Anglo-American Commission brought in a unanimous recommendation that this be done. Sharfsin complains that although such action was recommended by the Commission, "Mr. Bevin has never explained or attempted to justify this violation of his pledged word".

As an indication of the interest being taken in this question, the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University (Philadelphia), and the United Nations Council of Philadelphia are all planning open forums on Palestine, and have asked me to arrange for someone to put the British case, which owing to the recently imposed "black-out", I have been unable to do. I have also had to decline invitations to address three men's clubs on this topic for the same reason.

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E. 19

The Bess arabian Federation of American Jews, which held a Convention here during the month, is reported to have forwarded a resolution to President Truman asking that the entry into the United States of displaced Jews in Germany and Austria be permitted on the basis of unused immigration quotas, and also that the President and Congress "come to the immediate aid of the much-too-much displaced Jews of Europe, and make it possible for them to re-enter Palestine".

In spite of all this interest in Palestine, there are no signs of any willingness to bear any part of the military and financial burden of administering the Mandate, and the feeling of the man in the street seems to be that the problem is ours and that it is for Britain to battle with it. The decision to refer the whole question to the United Nations is generally regarded as the only course open to H.M.G. as all efforts to find a solution which would be accepted by both Jews and Arabs have failed.

Yours ever,

(SD) H. C. McCLELLAND

H. C. McClelland.

Copies sent to Reports Division, Embassy, and North American Department, Foreign Office.

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Registry
No. E 2227/227/31

~~Top Secret~~
Secret.
~~Confidential~~
Restricted.
~~Open~~

Draft.

Chancery,
Washington

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

+ OC

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OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

31 March, 1947.

Dear Chancery,

Please refer to Philadelphia letter No. 38 from McClelland to Bromley, of the 1st March, on the subject of Zionist activity.

In the last paragraph on page 4 of that letter reference is made to a "recently imposed blackout", apparently on the public presentation by British officials of the British point of view of Palestine.

We had not previously heard of any such blackout, and our first reaction to the news is that it seems to be an unfortunate development at a time when the other interested parties must be intensifying their propaganda with a view to creating a favourable atmosphere, from their point of view, when the Palestine problem is discussed by the General Assembly of the United Nations. In this situation it seems to be more than ever necessary that misrepresentations of British policy should be answered as effectively as possible.

We do not know, however, exactly what the scope of this "blackout" is, nor the arguments in favour of imposing it. May we have this information as soon as possible?

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

H.B. 297
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OUT FILE

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

31st March, 1947.

(E 2227/227/31)

SECRET

Dear Chancery,

Please refer to Philadelphia letter No. 38 from McClelland to Bromley, of the 1st March, on the subject of Zionist activity.

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We do not know, however, exactly what the scope of this "blackout" is, nor the arguments in favour of imposing it. May we have this information as soon as possible?

Yours ever,

Eastern Department.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Washington.

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1947

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E 3484

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28 APR

Registry Number } E3484/227/31
 TELEGRAM FROM
 No. Lord Laverghay
 Dated W. Tom.
 Received in Registry } 2460
 24 Apr 1947
 28 - -

American League for a Free Palestine.
 Refer F.O. 3981 (E3377/48/9) states
 only recent advertisement by League
 was in P.M. entitled "Build DOV GRUNKAS
 MEMORIAL" & announced a 7 1/2 million
 dollar drive for provision of ships to carry
 illegal immigrants for medical aid and
 relief supplies by "underground fighters".

Last Paper.

2227

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

The News Dept might ask the
 News Chronicle where they got
 their report from.

News Dept. H. S. Baird
 May 2

I think it came from the papers
 N.Y. correspondent.

RJ

3/5

I attach the News Chronicle's report from
 the N.Y. correspondent.

R. F. Scott
 5/8

I also attach a leader from the St. Guardian
 of April 25th which points out that Henry Wallace's
 paper "The New Republic", of April 24th also carries
 such an advertisement.

RJ 6/1- R. F. Scott
 5/8

(Action completed.)

7 PM 6/1-

(Index)

No. 14/48
 later
 call
 (14/48)

Next Paper

E 3653

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FO 371 / 61860

E 23

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Cypher OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

E 3484

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel
No. 2460

D. 6.01 a.m. 25th April 1947.

24th April 1947.

R. 12.20 a.m. 25th April 1947.

SECRET

TTTTT

E 3377/48/MS

Your telegram No. 3981. Assistance in United States for extremist Zionist activities.

The only recent advertisement by the American League for a free Palestine which we have seen (in "P.M." about a week ago), was entitled "Build Dov Gruner's Memorial". It announced a seven and a half million dollar drive for the provision of ships to carry illegal immigrants, for medical aid and relief supplies for "underground fighters" and for support for a provisional Hebrew Government. There was no mention in it of guns nor of the allocation of specific shipments for specific purposes. We have not as yet seen armaments mentioned elsewhere.

2. We are making further investigations here and in New York to see whether armaments have been mentioned in any other advertisements or in speeches by members of the organisation.

3. The United Zionists-Revisionists have appealed to American youth to join the underground.

28 APR 1947

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Reference
FO 371/61860

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News Chronicle May 1st '47

24

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

U.S. Zionists denounce UNO

INDEXED

From Our Own Correspondent

NEW YORK, Wednesday.

UNO'S Special Assembly was denounced as a "futile" waste of time today by the Pan-American League for a Free Palestine in a full-page advertisement calling for subscriptions to swell the 7,500,000 dollar fund to ship Jews into Palestine and aid underground resistance.

One paragraph was headed:

"In Flushing they talk.

"In Palestine they fight."

The advertisement said: "While British diplomacy is wasting the United Nations Assembly the chance for Hebrew victory increases in the field. While the diplomats talk, thousands of Hebrews in European camps are preparing their march to the sea—the beginning of the second exodus. With enough ships they will batter the British blockade.

"It takes 250 dollars (£62) to move a Hebrew from Europe to Palestine.

"Britain may be able to duck a UNO decision, but she cannot stop a Hebrew nation in motion."

Subscriptions are exempt from tax by a ruling of the U.S. Treasury, it is pointed out.

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FO 371 / 61860

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Manchester Guardian 28.4.47
25

INDEXED

Unhelpful

One of the paradoxes of Mr. Henry Wallace's character is that while he gushes (in England) about the British he permits the paper of which he is editor to publish (in America) appeals for funds to support an armed revolt against British authority. Thus the "New Republic" of March 24 has a page advertisement of the "Palestine Resistance Committee" asking for funds for the Jewish terrorists in Palestine:

Your dollars can help a relentless fighting force—built of the same hardy stuff and filled with the same inspiration as those freedom-loving "rebels" of 1776—march on to liberation. . . . The Underground Fighters need bandages, penicillin, surgical instruments, underground hospitals. Money is needed by the families of fighters, fighters who are actively resisting, fighters who are in prison, in concentration camps, in exile.

The issue of April 7 has a page advertisement from another body, the "Political Action Committee for Palestine, Inc.," which propounds a remarkable scheme for illegal immigration to beat "Nelson's Heirs" and "Mr. Adolf Bevin." It is to transport Jews from Germany to Palestine by 'plane. The American Government is asked to let the committee have (on Lend-Lease) DC4 transport 'planes for which the committee undertakes to provide navigating personnel.

'Planes carrying women and children will be directed to secretly designated makeshift landing fields in Palestine. 'Planes carrying able-bodied men will be unloaded by parachute.

As the scheme demands a capital of \$10,000,000 it is hardly likely to do anything except mislead some of the miserable Jewish exiles (not in comfortable New York) who look towards Palestine. But however strongly we may criticise the policy of the British Government in Palestine we cannot forget that there is such a thing as American responsibility also. What, one wonders, has been the contribution of Mr. Wallace to the solution of the Palestine problem? Does he want a United Nations solution, or does he accept the argument of the terrorists that the bomb and the murderer must prevail? Here is an opportunity for constructive thought by American Liberals, if they really wish to contribute to peace.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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Class 371

Piece 61860

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of the Public Records Act, 1958

E 3653 / 227 / 31

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Reference

FO 371 / 61860

1947

E

E 3745

26

6 MAY

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E3745/227/31
 FROM } P.O.
 No. } Major Bruce
 Dated } 28 Apr 1947
 Received in Registry } 6 May

American League for a Free Palestine.
 Major Bruce asked whether attention had been brought to activities of the League i.e. soliciting money for illegal immigration etc. in May/Jun. Attention has been drawn, and we are in communication with Embassy Washington on the subject.

Last Paper.
 3653

(Minutes.)

Copy Washington
 JB May 6

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

9. Washington
 no. 1914
 (open) May 7
 Tel. W/ton 4725
 12 May.

(Action completed.)

(Index)

YEM
 7/5

[Signature]
 14/5/48

Next Paper.

3856

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Reference
FO 371 / 61860

EASTERN

F

27

Parliamentary Question

57. Major Bruce.—To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether his attention has been drawn to the activities of the American League for a Free Palestine at a meeting of which, on 22nd April, a drive was commenced for the raising of nearly £2,000,000 for the purpose of buying and equipping ships to run illegal immigrants through the British blockade into Palestine; and what representations he proposes to make, either direct or through U.N.O., to the U.S. Government with a view to ascertaining its attitude to the conduct of activities within its territories directly and explicitly aimed at breaking British law within an area subject to British jurisdiction. [Monday 28th April.]

Lat

Postmaster's Mark

ANSWERED 29 APR 1947
29/4

NOT FOR ORAL ANSWER

See E3377/G and action.

We did, in fact, take note of a Press report yesterday on the lines indicated by Major Bruce, and a telegram has been sent to Washington instructing the Embassy to take the matter up with the State Department, *in support of our previous representations.* I attach a draft reply. *Co. concurred*

E 3745
6 MAY

D. S. Beith

24th April, 1947.

BEITH

R. G. Farran

*I think in her letter
say that we are in communication
with Washington on the subject.*

W. J. Foster
25/4

(214/5)



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Reference
FO 371 / 61860

NON-ORAL 28

10

DRAFT REPLY

TO:

MAJOR BRUCE

4/57.

MONDAY, 28th APRIL

Yes, Sir. ^{RMF's} My attention has been drawn to

Press reports regarding this new drive to ^{obtain} provide

funds for Jewish ^{terrorism and} illegal immigration ^{tion} into Palestine,

^{he is} ~~been~~ ^{in communication with} and His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington ^{on the} ~~has been~~

~~subject.~~
~~instructed to take up the matter with the United~~

~~States Government.~~

WOM 25/4
NMB 25/iv
COM 27/4

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Reference
FO 371 / 61860

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MW 29

PALESTINE (AMERICAN LEAGUE) QUESTION.

PALESTINE (AMERICAN LEAGUE ACTIVITIES)

Major Bruce asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been drawn to the activities of the American League for a Free Palestine at a meeting of which, on 22nd April, a drive was commenced for the raising of nearly £2,000,000 for the purpose of buying and equipping ships to run illegal immigrants through the British blockade into Palestine; and what representations he proposes to make, either direct or through U.N.O., to the U.S. Government with a view to ascertaining its attitude to the conduct of activities within its territories directly and explicitly aimed at breaking British law within an area subject to British jurisdiction.

Mr. Mayhew: Yes, Sir. My right hon. Friend's attention has been drawn to Press reports regarding this new drive to obtain funds for Jewish terrorism and illegal immigration into Palestine, and he is in communication with His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington on the subject.

20 APR 1947

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Reference FO 371 / 61860

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry No. 5

Draft.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

telegram to HM Ambassador Washington

no: 4725

date May 12th

cypher

No 2 Dept

OUT FILE

Date

Despatched

12/5 30
9 10 PM

Immediate

Restricted

My despatch no: 1914

~~no: 2397~~

May 7th

[of April 22nd]

American aid for illegal immigration

Parliamentary Question down for May 19th asks whether I have yet received any indication from you as to the attitude of the U.S. Govt: towards the activities of the American League for a Free Palestine.

Please report urgently whether you have any thing to add to your tets: nos: 2397 [of April 22nd] and 2460 [of April 24th].

W.M. 12/5

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Reference

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"

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 3856 32

9 MAY

Registry Number

E 3856/227/31

FROM

B. G.

No.

Philadelphia

Dated

Received in Registry

24 Apr 1947

9 May

American League for a Free Palestine
transmits copy of letter No. 91 (S.P.10.2) to
F. P. Bramley, W. Fox, concerning picketing
of consulate building by 'the League'
on 17 April, as protest against execution
of DUU GRUNER and others.

Last Paper.

3745

References.

1515

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Trafford Smith-
P.O.

May 19

(Action completed.)

PCM 20/5

(Index.)

14/5/48

Next Paper.

E4044

(Minutes.)

Copy c.o. (Mr Trafford Smith)

PP
12/5

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FO 371 / 61860

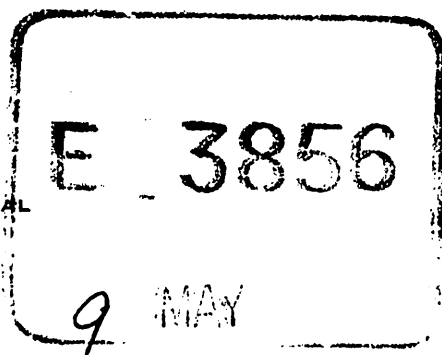
33
E
North American Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1

24th April, 1947

FORWARDED WITH THE
COMPLIMENTS OF THE BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL
AT PHILADELPHIA

Enclosure - Copy of letter No. 91
(5.P.10.2) to T. E. Bromley, Esq.,
British Embassy, Washington, of
24th April, re Palestine.

BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL
PHILADELPHIA



101

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Reference

FO 371 / 61860

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No. 91
(10.2)
M. M. M.

BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL
PHILADELPHIA

24th April, 1947

34

Dear Bromley,

The Philadelphia Saving Fund Society Building, in which we have our offices, was picketed for an hour by the American League for a Free Palestine on the 17th April as a protest against the execution of Dov Gruner and the other three terrorists who were hanged with him in Palestine on the preceding day.

The pickets carried placards appealing to the general public to "help the Palestine resistance", and accusing H.M.C. of hanging "Hebrew patriots", and of keeping 100,000 victims of Hitler in concentration camps.

On the 18th April, we received an anonymous telephone call warning us that these offices would be bombed at noon the following day. In accordance with a previous arrangement, we passed this message on to the Building Manager, who in turn communicated with the local police authorities. As a result, we had a uniformed policeman sitting in our general office until the 22nd April when, as nothing had happened, he was withdrawn.

The Philadelphia press of the last two days has carried advertisements inserted by the American Zionist Emergency Council of New York, and by the American League for a Free Palestine, Philadelphia. I think it more than likely that the A.Z.E.C. advertisement appeared in the New York press, and that you will in due course receive it from Evans, and accordingly do not send you a copy.

.../The American

T. E. Bromley, Esq.,
British Embassy,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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The American League for a Free Palestine advertisement takes about a quarter of a page in this morning's Philadelphia Inquirer, and appeals to the reading public to "Stop these Murders". "You can do it", the advertisement continues, "Hebrews are fighting for freedom - give them a fighting chance. The chips are down. Protest NOW or say yes to more Dov Gruners hanging from British gallows in Palestine".

Mrs. Davis M. Levy, the Chairman of the National Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal, who has recently returned from a visit to Palestine and Europe, told a meeting of this Organization here last night that the majority of Jews in Europe want to go to Palestine, but realize that factors beyond their control might force them to settle for less. She went on to say that the hopes of the one and a half million Jewish D.P.'s in Europe who looked for sanctuary in Palestine, the United States, or some other hospitable land, were growing dim. Jewish survivors in Europe, she said, know that migration to any destination - Palestine, the United States, or any other land - was going to take a long time for many of them. She appealed for the fullest support of the Allied Jewish Appeal Campaign for the relief, rehabilitation, and resettlement of Jewish D.P.'s in Europe.

The A.L.F.P. is arranging a memorial protest rally to be held here on Sunday, 27th April, at which Mrs. Helen Friedman, Dov Gruner's sister, and Peter H. Bergson will speak.

A Dov Gruner Memorial Citizens Committee has been formed, with Judge Eugene C. Bonniwell (see my No. 300 of 1st November, 1946), and one Meyer Abrams as Co-Chairmen. If time permits, I shall let you have a report on the rally before leaving for Washington next Monday.

The National Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons, of which Dr. Earl G. Harrison is the Chairman, continues to hold meetings urging the admission of a fair

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expedition of these unfortunate people into the United States, but with how much success is not known.

36

I am sending a copy of this letter to the North American Department of the Foreign Office.

Yours ever,

(Sd) H. C. McCLELLAND

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12

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E 4044

37

1947

PALESTINE

15 MAY

Registry Number

E 4044/227/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Land Lawrenshaw
Washington

Dated

2856

Received in Registry

14, May 1947
15 - -

American League for a Free Palestine.

Refer to O. tel 4425 (E 3745/227/31) have
again asked State Dept for early reply.
They say that matter is still being considered
by their legal experts and will then have to
go to Geneva but have promised to act quickly.

Last Paper.

2856

(Minutes.)

JD. May 21

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

G. E. W. 2/1

(Index)

14/10/48

Next Paper.

E 4148

32003 F.O.P.

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E 4044

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2.

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Lord Inverchapel. D. 2.35 p.m. 14th May, 1947.
No. 2856.

14th May, 1947. R. 9.02 p.m. 14th May, 1947.

3 3 3

IMMEDIATE.
RESTRICTED.

Emergency

Your telegram No. 4725: American League for a Free Palestine.

We have again asked State Department for an early reply. They say that matter is still being considered by their legal experts and will then have to go to Acheson but have promised to act as quickly as possible. I fear that we shall not get an answer before May 19th.

2. We have still seen no reference to the provision of armaments in any advertisements or statements issued by extreme Zionist organisations. The only additional information (see enclosure to my despatch No. 1144 of 9th May) is that of the seven and a half million dollars which the American League for a Free Palestine hope to collect, 40 per cent is to be devoted to ships, 40 per cent to medicines, relief and other legal aid to the terrorists, and 20 per cent to the establishment of a provisional Hebrew Government.

MAY 1947
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E4148/227/31

E4218

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15
1947

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E 4375

39

PALESTINE

23 MAY

Registry Number

E 4375/227/31

FROM

P.O.

No.

Majors
Browl.

Dated

Received in Registry

23 May 1947

American League for a Free Palestine.
Majors Browl. asked whether Dept has yet received any indication from Washington towards activities of the League.
11th May 47. we are still awaiting reply from State Dept to repeated representations which I as Ambassador in Washington has made to them.

Last Paper.

218

(Minutes.)

JB May 28

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

9/ Washington no. 1046
(Open) May 27

(Action completed.)

P.P. 10/30/47

(Index.)

14/8/47

Next Paper.

7462

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Reference FO 371/61860

E 4375

EASTERN

R
40

23 MAY

Parliamentary Question

* 99. Major Bruce.—To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether he has yet received any indication from His Majesty's Ambassador in Washington as to the attitude of the U.S. Government towards the activities of the American League for a Free Palestine.*

dab

Portsmouth North

19 MAY 1947

ANSWERED 19 MAY 1947
REPLY ATTACHED.

This question follows up an earlier question put by Major Bruce on 28th April (see question and answer in E 3745 - Flag c).

We have made repeated representations to the State Department about the activities both of the American League for a Free Palestine and other American pro-Zionist bodies. We have had no proper reply to these representations, though Mr. Acheson agreed on 22nd April that H.M.G. was entitled to a reasoned reply (E 3377/G - Flag D).

The latest position is set out in telegram No. 2856 from Washington of 14th May (E 4044 - Flag E) namely that the matter is still being considered by the State Department's legal experts, but that the State Department has promised to act as quickly as possible. It is possible that supplementary questions will refer to the particularly obnoxious advertisement which has just appeared in a New York paper, containing the text of a letter by Mr. Ben Hecht, about which a draft telegram instructing the Embassy to protest to the State Department in the strongest possible terms is under submission.

I submit a draft reply.

R. G. G. G.
16th May, 1947.

W. J. J. J.
17/5

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1989.

RECEIVED IN O.B.
21 MAY 1947
SENT TO OFF

**PALESTINE (AMERICAN
LEAGUE'S ACTIVITIES)**

2. **Major Bruce** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has yet received any indication from His Majesty's Ambassador in Washington as to the attitude of the U.S. Government towards the activities of the American League for a Free Palestine.

Mr. Mayhew: My right hon. Friend is still awaiting a reply from the State Department to the repeated representations which His Majesty's Embassy in Washington have made to them on this subject.

Major Bruce: Is my hon. Friend aware that the particular organisation which is referred to in the Question has pledged itself to raise £250,000 before 4th July in order to reinforce underground resistance against British law in Palestine?

Mr. Mayhew: Yes, Sir, we are aware of the activities and we are following them closely. We are making our views very plain to the State Department.

Mr. Driberg: Can my hon. Friend say whether this League is technically a charity and, therefore, subject to certain tax remissions, and, if so, does it not follow that the U.S. Treasury is indirectly subsidising the assassination of British soldiers in Palestine? Will he look at that aspect of the question?

Mr. Mayhew: We are aware of certain considerations of that kind which we are putting to the State Department, but I cannot accept all the implications in the supplementary question.

19 MAY 1947

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42

2.

DRAFT REPLY TO
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
No. 39 by Major Bruce
on 19th May, 1947

My RHF is
~~I~~ am still awaiting a reply from the State Department to the repeated representations which H.M. Embassy in Washington have made to them regarding ~~on this subject~~ the activities of this and other bodies.

Notes for Supplementaries

1. When is a reply expected?

I have been given to understand that a reply will be forthcoming in the near future.

2. What action has been taken about the recent Ben Hecht advertisement?

H.M. Ambassador in Washington has been instructed to take this up with the State Department in the strongest possible terms.

Wm 8/17/5

Cym

17/5

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E 7462

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E 7462/22/31

M^r M. Hamilton

to

M. Bealey

Aug 13

15

American League for a Free Palestine.
Transmit copy of publication 9.482 of Aug 6.
from B.I.S. the Brighton, featuring material
on the activities of the American League
for a Free Palestine - the organization
of Illegal Immigration.

Last Paper

4275

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes.)

This information was provided
by Eastern Dept.

NTA Dept.
see 1948.

J. S. Davis
Aug 15

W.B. 15/8

(Action completed)

(In ~~act~~)

J. E. Brown *[Signature]*

Next Paper

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Reference
FO 371 / 61860

Telephone WHITEHALL 4341

In any further communication on this subject
the following reference should be quoted:—

Your reference: _____

F
FOREIGN OFFICE,
12-15 CARLTON HOUSE TER.,
LONDON, S.W.1

44
7482

With the Compliments of
Mrs Mary Agnes Hamilton,
American Information Department.

August 13th 1947.

H. Beeley, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office.

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Reference
FO 371 / 61860

CONFIDENTIAL

G.482

For the information
of British Officials

Information Office,
British Embassy,
Washington, D.C.
August 6th, 1947.

Illegal Jewish Immigration, Theory and Practice

The following background material for use in conversation on the activities of the American League for a Free Palestine in the organization of illegal immigration may be helpful. It is taken from a series of articles written by a Daily Mail correspondent during July. These articles have struck us as being founded on a solid basis of fact and as showing clearly that this organization batters on the ignorance and compassion of the charitable, and that fat profits accrue to all those who touch the money on its way to the Jews of Europe.

This organization's appeals for funds state that the money is intended to convey Jews from Europe to Palestine. A sum of \$250 is stated to be necessary to move one immigrant. Of this sum \$50 in fact goes straight to the Irgun Zvai Leumi - an indirect American contribution to sabotage and to the murder of young British soldiers.

The following general account of the organization of illegal immigration goes to show that, of the remaining \$200, much must go into the hands of grasping middlemen. No reputable ship-owners will look at a racket such as this. Instead, mushroom firms are set up by unscrupulous men who fit out small unseaworthy coffin ships, put them in many cases under the flag of a country which is not particular about international conventions on safety at sea, and sail them to the Mediterranean. On their arrival there, a new crew is put on board by the organizers, consisting either of illegal immigrants or of desperadoes who will sail anywhere for money. The ship-owners themselves know that they will not see the ships again and therefore demand a high price for their services. They are interested in cash, not in immigrants.

In amplification of the above, some interesting facts emerge from a study of twenty-five ships which have been intercepted in Palestine waters during the last twelve months. (It should be noted that only one of these was run by the American League for a Free Palestine, the rest being Haganah ships). The names of five men are connected with no fewer than seventeen of these ships. Three are Greeks, one is Italian, and one is stateless. The past of these men is not edifying, one of them, for example, having been deported from Palestine in 1940 for helping enemy agents to land. Typical of the smart business deals carried out by these men is the case of the corvette ULUA (a Haganah ship). Her gross tonnage was 808, and she had 1,398 men, women and children on board when intercepted. (At an equivalent density of passengers, the QUEEN ELIZABETH would have 147,000 on board; but even when jammed full during the war, she never carried more than 15,700). As the ULUA neared Palestine, the passengers were crowded below decks while hot oil hoses were being prepared for the British boarding party and nuts and bolts for ammunition were being piled on the decks.

The ULUA was bought from the U.S. Government in November 1946 by a Greek, for £18,750. He resold her to an Italian in the ring for £31,250. A profit of £12,500 is involved here. There is little wonder, therefore, that the American League for a Free Palestine for

/ their

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Reference

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